

**Testimony of Lyndsey Craft, Sexual Assault Crisis Counselor
Hartford Sexual Assault Crisis Services
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee
March 24, 2009**

SB 6532 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR BRINGING AN ACTION FOR DAMAGES FOR THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR.

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lyndsey Craft. I am a state certified Child Sexual Assault Crisis Counselor/ Advocate for the Hartford Sexual Assault Crisis Service, a program of the YWCA New Britain. I am writing with a request to support the concepts raised in ***SB 6532 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR BRINGING AN ACTION FOR DAMAGES FOR THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR.***

I have been employed with the Sexual Assault Crisis Services, for approximately seven months. In that time I have provided one-on-one counseling to over twenty children, all under the age of sixteen. 18 out of the 20 children that I have seen were referred to me through family, DCF, or the school system, the other two children contacted me directly. Eight out of the twenty children that I have worked with, reported past sexual abuse; abuse that happened five to ten years ago.

While working with these children, it became apparent to me that their reasons for delayed disclosure were due to confusion surrounding the abuse, feelings of shame or guilt, or due to extensive psychological trauma.

Since I have been the Child Advocate at the Sexual Assault Crisis Services, it has become quite evident the majority of children do not disclose immediately. If this proposed bill were to pass, it would allow children to receive the justice they so deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.